

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

### February, 2002

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Second Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.*

### Residents of Second Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District

#### Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 2.6% (3,246) reside in the Second Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (617) of Second Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 75.3% of admissions from the Second Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District were male and 24.7% were female.
- Over 64.0% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 50.7% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.0% were black non-Latino, 42.2% were Latino, 0.4% were Asians, and 3.8% were other racial categories.
- 64.6% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 13.1% were married, and 13.1% reported not to be married now.
- 42.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 42.6% completed high school, and 14.9% had more than high school education.
- 26.9% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 18.6% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.1% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

#### Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

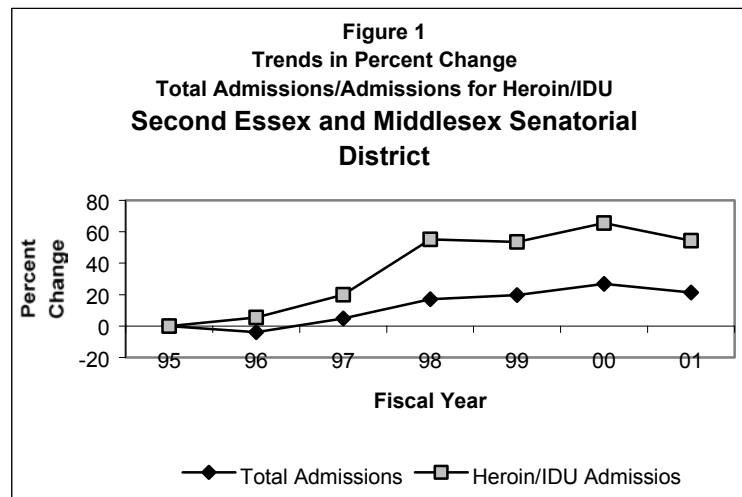
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Second Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Use FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Second Essex and Middlesex							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '95</b>	2,677	1,862	747	905	861	1,114	667
<b>FY '96</b>	2,570	1,826	778	763	732	1,149	731
<b>FY '97</b>	2,807	1,905	719	793	689	1,275	859
<b>FY '98</b>	3,136	1,966	817	884	539	1,636	1,129
<b>FY '99</b>	3,204	1,956	919	963	574	1,649	1,084
<b>FY '00</b>	3,394	2,101	1,038	1,066	604	1,734	1,216
<b>FY '01</b>	3,246	1,939	907	990	474	1,660	1,088

- Since FY 1995, residents of Second Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District reported a 49% rise in heroin use, while crack use has decreased by 45%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol and cocaine use have remained fairly steady.

### Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Second Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV<sup>1</sup>.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 21% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased 54%.

### Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Second Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
<b>District</b>	30.7%	50.8%	7.1%	4.7%	2.9%
<b>State</b>	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was lower than the State average, heroin and cocaine as a primary drug was higher within your District.

<sup>1</sup> The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000